

APR 21 1962

Approved For Release 2000/08/03 : CIA-RDP75-00001R0001

MORNING 199,282

25X1A

Mrs. Powers Put In Coma by Pills

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Mrs. Barbara Powers, wife of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, was rushed to a hospital in nearby Alexandria, Va., before dawn Friday morning, suffering from what police called an overdose of sleep capsules.



Associated Press Wirephoto
IN HOSPITAL
Mrs. Barbara Powers

She was transferred to a Washington hospital a few hours later, still unconscious. She was reported "out of danger" later in the day.

Authorities at Washington's Georgetown University Hospital said she was being treated for an "acute gastric condition."

A physician there said they knew "medication" was available to her, but didn't know if she had taken it. Washington police said they were told she had taken 28 capsules.

Mrs. Powers, who lived with her mother in Milledgeville, Ga., while her famous pilot husband was in prison in Russia, had been living in Alexandria with her husband since shortly after he returned to this country from Russia in February.

Powers was with his wife when she was admitted to Georgetown Hospital at 6:20 a.m. He stayed there until mid-morning but was not available for comment on the incident.

According to police, hospital and Alexandria rescue squad records, this is what happened:

At 3:27 a.m. the rescue squad received a call (identified only as a man's voice) of an emer-

gency at the fashionable river-front apartment house in which the Powers live in Alexandria.

Mrs. Powers was rushed by ambulance from the apartment to the Alexandria Hospital, six blocks away. She was treated there for "medication reaction" then transferred to Georgetown Hospital, arriving there by ambulance at 6:20 a.m.

She received treatment and was later reported "in satisfactory condition and out of danger."

There was no explanation for the fact that police said they were told Mrs. Powers had taken the sleeping capsules and hospital officials said only that the capsules had been available.

Powers became front page news

all over the world when his U2 photo reconnaissance plane was downed in Russia in May 1960. He was tried as a spy, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was released in February of this year in a swap

for a Russian spy being held in Atlanta's Federal Penitentiary. Powers is still attached to the Central Intelligence Agency, whose headquarters are in another Virginia suburb of Washington.